

## **CHAPTER 7**

# **MEMBER EDUCATION & SEMINARS**

## PRERETIREMENT PROGRAM

Since January of 1987 the Retirement Office has been conducting statewide Preretirement Planning seminars for plan members and spouses, age 50 and over.

LB311 passed by the Eighty-Ninth Legislature, Second Session, 1986, requires the Retirement Office to conduct the seminars and establishes the basic guidelines for our office to follow.

LB 369, effective September 9, 1995, states, "The employer shall provide each eligible employee leave with pay to attend up to two preretirement planning programs." According to this law, "...leave with pay shall mean a day off paid by the employer and shall not mean vacation, sick, personal, or compensatory time." Members may choose to attend a seminar more than twice, but such leave shall be at their expense and shall be at the discretion of the employer. **The law limiting attendance to twice is not retroactive and therefore will not include any attendances prior to September 9, 1995.** See Chapter 84-1511 of the Revised Nebraska Statutes for further details.

The seminars are held every year in various locations throughout the state. Employees are not, according to law, to be allowed to attend more than one seminar **per fiscal year**.

## PERSONAL PLANNING PROGRAM

Effective September 1995, LB369 authorized the Retirement Office to conduct planning seminars for county plan members and spouses under age 50.

The law says, "employers shall provide each eligible employee leave with pay to attend a planning program twice prior to age fifty." According to this law, "leave with pay shall mean a day off to attend a seminar, paid by the employer and shall not mean vacation, sick, personal, or compensatory time." A member may choose to attend a seminar more than twice, but such leave shall be at the expense of the member and shall be at the discretion of the employer. **The law limiting attendance to twice is not retroactive and therefore will not include any attendances prior to September 9, 1995.** See Chapter 84-1511.01 of the Revised Nebraska Statutes for further details.

The seminars are held every year in various locations throughout the state. Employees are not, according to law, to be allowed to attend more than one seminar **per fiscal year**.

## REGISTRATION

The Retirement Office will send a Preretirement registration brochure to each employee who is age 50 or over and a Personal Planning brochure to each member under age 50. Only members of the County Employee's Retirement System and a spouse or guest of a member are eligible to attend. You will receive a brochure for each seminar as the representative of your agency and a supply of posters for you to post as reminders to your employees.

To register, a member must complete the registration form and mail it to our office, along with a \$15.00 fee. The fee includes a planning book, handouts, coffee and rolls to start the day, lunch, and an afternoon refreshment break.

The Retirement Office uses various facilities to conduct the seminars and therefore pays an additional \$10.00 to the facility for each member who attends. The fee paid by the Retirement Office is **in addition** to the \$15.00 member's fee and is **ONLY** to cover the cost of the expense for instructors, **not** materials and refreshments, etc.

The registration form must be completed by the member and returned to the Retirement Office with payment at least ONE WEEK in advance of the seminar. Space is limited at each seminar, therefore, please encourage your employees to register as soon as possible.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

A minimum of 15 participants is required for a seminar to be held. If a seminar is cancelled, registrants will be notified as soon as possible and offered an opportunity to attend another seminar, if available. If the member cannot attend another seminar, they will receive a refund of their fees.

If a member wishes to cancel or change their registration date, the Retirement Office must be notified of the cancellation or date change at least three working days prior to the date of the seminar to receive a refund of the registration fee.

**Any questions regarding the Preretirement and Personal Planning Programs should be directed to the Information Department of the Retirement Office. The Information Department will also provide you a supply of registration brochures, upon request.**

## COUNTY RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS

The Retirement Office will work in cooperation with the NACO President to schedule biannual retirement workshops for County Clerks and their staff. A workshop will be held in each NACO district.

During these workshops, the Retirement Office will address any pressing or relevant issues, recent legislative changes, etc.

In addition to the workshops, representatives of the Nebraska County Employees' Retirement System are always available. If needed, a representative from the Retirement Office will come to your county and work with the County Clerk's office on any important retirement related issues.